

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 34

WHEREAS, Ronald Wilson Reagan was born February 6, 1911 in Tampico, Illinois, in a five-room flat over a bakery, the second son of store clerk John Reagan and seamstress Nelle Reagan; and

WHEREAS, the Reagan family moved to Chicago's South Side, to Monmouth, and back to Tampico before settling in Dixon, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan spent seven summers working as a lifeguard at Dixon's Lowell Park, and is credited with saving 77 swimmers from drowning in the Rock River during that time; and

WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan graduated from Dixon High School, where he participated in drama, basketball, football, and track; and

WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan attended Eureka College in Eureka, Illinois, where he continued his participation in drama, football and track, and he was elected student body president; and

WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan graduated from Eureka College in 1932 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in social science and economics; and

WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan cast his first vote in a national presidential election in Dixon, in 1932; and

WHEREAS, in Europe during the 1980's, Ronald Reagan had a vision for Central and Eastern Europe that meant freedom from the Soviets; and

WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan supported the Solidarity of Poland as well as dissident movements in other countries behind the Iron Curtain; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lech Walesa, winner of the 1983 Nobel Peace Prize and the President of Poland from 1990 to 1995, credits Ronald Reagan for building a bridge between those living under Communism and those living in freedom in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Illinois recently honored Ronald Reagan by designating Interstate 88 between Sterling, Illinois and the Quad Cities as the "Ronald Reagan Memorial Highway"; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the state of Missouri to join its sister state in honoring Ronald Wilson Reagan in a special way; and

WHEREAS, the construction of the new Mississippi River Bridge which will connect Missouri and Illinois, presents both states an opportunity to honor Ronald Reagan:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-Third General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby urges the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission and the Illinois Department of Transportation to take the appropriate steps to designate the new Mississippi River Bridge which connects Missouri to Illinois in downtown St. Louis as the "Ronald Wilson Reagan Memorial Bridge"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission and the Secretary of the Illinois Department of Transportation.

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